THE INFINITY GAUNTLET
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004

THE INFINITY STONES ARE A POWER BEYOND COMPARE.
THE SINGULAR DEVICE THAT CAN HOLD ALL THE STONES IS CALLED

THE INFINITY GAUNTLET

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED! ALL THAT REMAINS...IS BATTLEWORLD: A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM! EACH REGION IS A DOMAIN UNTO ITSELF!

A DANGEROUS COLONY OF BLOODTHIRSTY BUGS HAS SWARMED A DOMAIN OF BATTLEWORLD.

A YOUNG GIRL NAMED ANWEN AND HER FAMILY WERE ON THE RUN UNTIL HER MOTHER, A LONG-LOST NOVA, RETURNED AND DEPUTIZED THEM AS MEMBERS OF THE INTERGALACTIC PEACEKEEPING FORCE. NOW, THEY'RE SEARCHING FOR THE INFINITY STONES, HOPING TO USE THEIR COMBINED POWER TO REPEL THE BUG SCOURGE.

STAR-LORD AND GAMORA, A TEAM OF THIEVES, FOUND A STONE OF THEIR OWN IN A BUG-RAVAGED NOVA BASE. THE FAMILY RELUCTANTLY ALLOWED THE PAIR TO JOIN THEIR RANKS IN EXCHANGE FOR THE STONE.

QUILL AND GAMORA ARE THE LEAST OF THE FAMILY'S WORRIES, THOUGH. THANOS HIMSELF CONVINCED THE FAMILY TO TRUST HIM, EVEN TURNING OVER THE TIME STONE TO THEM, SECRETLY INTENDING TO DESTROY THEM AND TAKE ALL OF THE STONES THEY'D DISCOVERED FOR HIMSELF!

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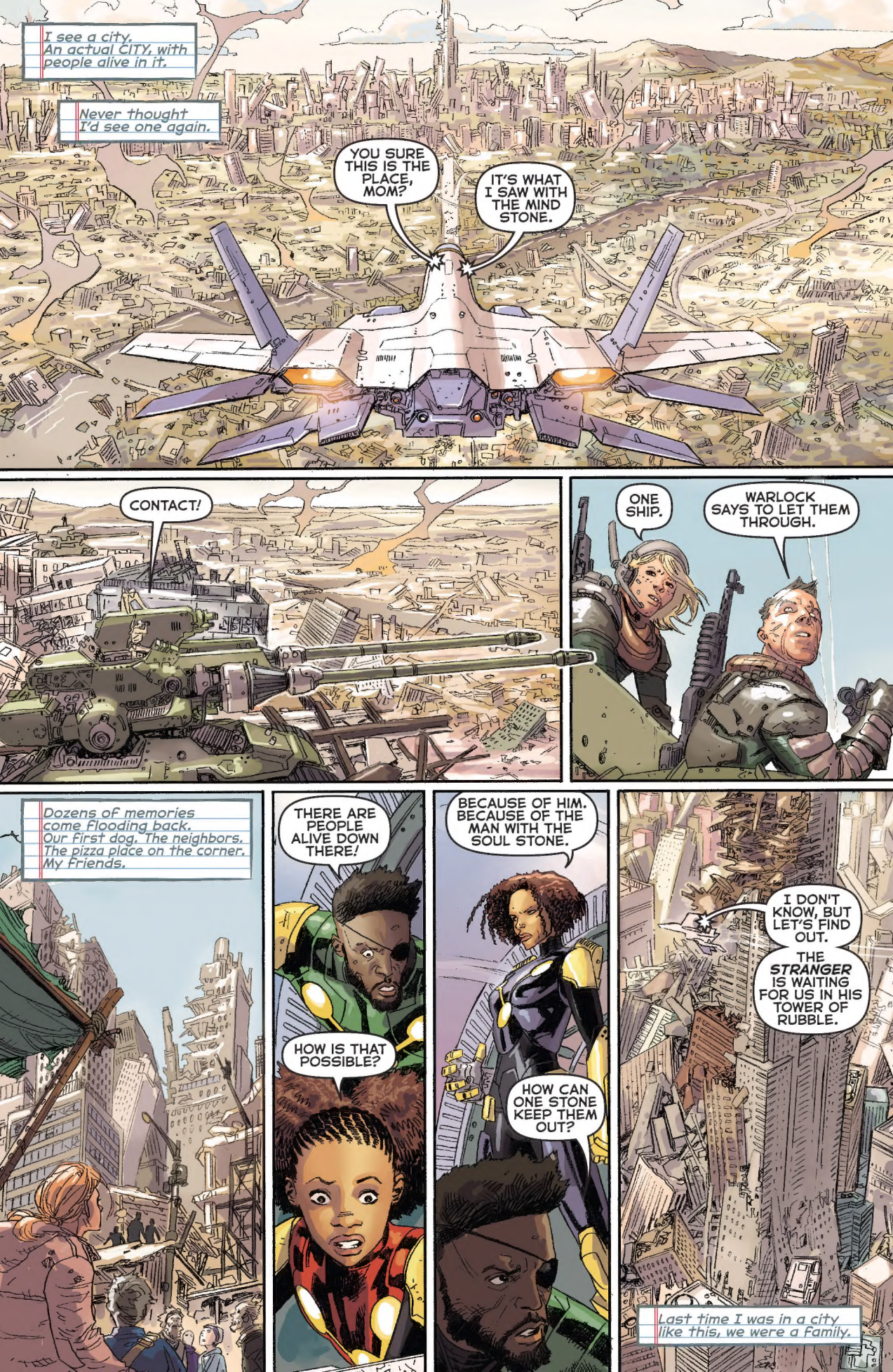

I see a city. An actual CITY, with people alive in it.
Never thought I'd see one again.
YOU SURE THIS IS THE PLACE, MOM?
IT'S WHAT I SAW WITH THE MIND STONE.
CONTACT!
ONE SHIP.
WARLOCK SAYS TO LET THEM THROUGH.
Dozens of memories come flooding back. Our first dog. The neighbors. The pizza place on the corner. My friends.
THERE ARE PEOPLE ALIVE DOWN THERE!
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?
BECAUSE OF HIM. BECAUSE OF THE MAN WITH THE SOUL STONE.
HOW CAN ONE STONE KEEP THEM OUT?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT LET'S FIND OUT.
THE STRANGER IS WAITING FOR US IN HIS TOWER OF RUBBLE.
Last time I was in a city like this, we were a family.

I feel a tear welling...

Maybe... Maybe Thanos was right. Maybe caring for people makes us WEAK.

I AM GROOT.

I AM QUILL.

WELCOME, MY NAME IS ADAM.

WELCOME TO MAGUS CITY.

I'VE SEEN YOU PEERING INTO MY MIND, AND I KNOW YOU'VE FELT ME IN YOURS.

THESE ARE MY KNIGHTS OF XANDAR.

WE'RE THE *NOVA CORPS.*

WELL, NOT ALL OF US, EXACTLY. I'M A FREE AGENT--

SHUT UP, PETER.

I AM GROOT.

SHUT UP, TREE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THERE WAS ANYONE LEFT BEYOND OUR WALLS.

THAT SHIP WILL BE A GREAT ADDITION TO THE WARLOCK'S FLEET.

YOU KNOW WHY WE'RE HERE. FOR THE GREATER GOOD, GIVE UP THE STONE.
WE DO NOT WANT A FIGHT, BUT IF YOU INSIST, I WON'T HESITATE TO BRING THE FULL FORCE OF FOUR INFINITY STONES AND THE REST OF MY CORPS DOWN ON YOU.
HUHN.
WE'RE NOT A CORPS HERE. WE'RE A FAMILY.
IS THERE ANYTHING MORE IMPORTANT?
I DON'T RULE THESE PEOPLE. I AM A FATHER TO THEM.
HOW DO YOU DO IT? WHY AREN'T THE BUGS HERE?
BY MY WILL ALONE.
I AM SALVATION.
I'M SORRY, EVE.
YOU'VE COME ALL THIS WAY FOR NOTHING.
YOU WON'T BE LEAVING WITH MY STONE.
YOU WON'T BE LEAVING AT ALL.
TO HELL WITH YOU THEN.

THE GAUNTLET WAS CONSTRUCTED TO HELP WIELD A SINGLE STONE.
IT BECOMES INSUFFICIENT WHEN YOU HAVE MULTIPLE STONES.
IN ORDER TO BECOME A LIVING WEAPON, THE POWER OF THE STONES MUST BE DIVIDED ACROSS OUR BODIES' CHAKRAS, WE NEED SOMETHING MORE ELEGANT...
THE INFINITY ARMOR!

YOU'VE FOUND A WAY TO KEEP YOUR PEOPLE SAFE WITH THE ONE STONE.
BUT IF WE UNITE ALL SIX STONES, WE CAN FINISH OFF THE BUGS COMPLETELY.
PERHAPS THAT IS TRUE, BUT THIS STONE PICKED ME. NOT YOU.
KNIGHTS-- THE STONE WANTS THEIR SOULS.
BY YOUR DECREE, MAGUS!
I'VE GOT THE BIG ONE!
NOT TO QUIBBLE, BUT I THINK THE BIG ONE IS ACTUALLY TWO.
FAYNE, GET BACK!
WE'RE TRAPPED!
YOU HAVE ONE STONE. I HAVE FOUR.
GIVE UP YOURS! IT'S NOT TOO LATE.
THE STONE IS NOT MINE TO GIVE. WE ARE ONE NOW.

DRAGON DRAGON, CHILDREN SCREAM, WHEN THEY IMAGINE MOTHER'S DREAM.
GET BEHIND ME, FAYNE!
MOMMA FOR HER BABIES YEARNS. TALON TRAUMA, FIRE BURNS!
MY BODY AND MIND ARE BEYOND YOUR COMPREHENSION. THE STONE AND I ARE PURE ENERGY.
I HAVE SOME ENERGY OF MY OWN!
FOOL!
WHAT GOOD IS YOUR SHINY ARMOR WHEN I HAVE YOUR SOUL?
NO!
WH-WHAT'S HAPPENING?
EVE!
I'M COM--
YOU WON'T BE TOUCHING THE MAGUS.
WHAMM
NNGH!
LISTEN, I'M A PACIFIST. I REALLY THINK WE CAN SORT THIS OUT WITHOUT RESORTING TO VIOLENCE.

GREEN ONE FIRST.
GO FOR LEGS.
WAS THIS OUR PLAN?
MY PLAN IS TO NOT LOSE MY LEGS AND PUT TO THIS THING DOWN. GO GET YOUR OWN.
I WILL NOT YIELD.
MY WILL IS STRONGER!
SHOW ME.
WATCH THOSE BLASTS, QUILL!
YOU WATCH THOSE BLASTS.
WAS THIS REALLY OUR PLAN? THIS SEEMS LIKE NOT A GOOD PLAN.
BOOM
BOOM?
WHAT NOW?

WHERE IS THE TITAN?
WHERE IS THE MAUVE COWARD?
SHOW YOURSELF, THANOS!
YOU! WHERE IS HE?!
WHOA, WHOA! I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE GUY.
LIES!
YOU ARE A DISAPPOINTMENT.
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD PUT UP A FIGHT.
ACKK!
WHUD
UHNN.
THIS CREATURE HAS SUCH A VIBRANT SOUL...
IT WILL MAKE A WONDERFUL BLAZE.

LISTEN, I REALLY DON'T WANT TO FIGHT. I JUST WANT TO KEEP MY KIDS SAFE AND--
TOO LATE FOR THAT. IF *SCATHE* DOESN'T FINISH THEM OFF, I WILL.
ENOUGH TALKING, THEN...
GONE? DID I GET HER?
SCATHE FEARS NO FLAME OF MEN...
COME ON, FAYNE! HIT HIM!
I'M *TRYING!* YOU AREN'T HITTING HIM EITHER!
...THEY ARE LAMBS IN A LION'S DEN.
CAN YOU PLEASE STOP WITH THE RHYMING? I ALWAYS HATED POETRY.
ANWEN! FAYNE!
NOT SO FAST, I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU. AND I THOUGHT WE WERE HAVING A PEACEFUL CHAT.
WHAM

RRRAARRRGGHHH!
FWOOSH
WAM WAM WAM WAM WAM WAM WAM WAM WAM WAM
ENOUGH!
I SAID I DON'T LIKE TO FIGHT...
...NOT THAT I COULDN'T.
ZIGZAG, ZIGZAG, ZIGZAG!
THE LITTLE ONE, HER WORDS INANE.
HAS FEAR OF SCATHE DROVE HER INSANE?
GRRRRRR

WAIT, FAYNE!
Family is weakness.
I hear Thanos' words, but I realize now how wrong he is.
WAY TO GO, ZIG!
I'M SORRY I YELLED AT YOU BEFORE.
JUST DON'T DO IT AGAIN.
WE HAVE TO WORK TOGETHER AND BLASTS AREN'T WORKING. SO LET'S TRY SOMETHING ELSE...
IMAGINE THIS THING'S HEAD'S A SOCCER BALL...
HEY, WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
GET YOUR HANDS OFF QUILL!
AWASH
AWASH
AWASH
JAWS AND CLAWS, HORRIBLE BEAST...
UPON YOUR CARCASS, RATS WILL--
EH?
HEY, BITCH!
STAY AWAY FROM OUR DOG!
WHAM
UHHN!

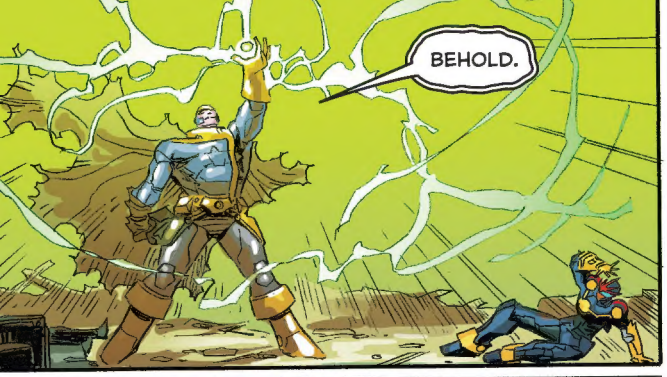
NICE PASS, FAYNE!
BACK ATCHA!
SO, LITTLE MAN.
YOU'RE THE BRAINS, HUH?
SMASH
MY GIFT IS NOT IN COMBAT...
...BUT IN VISION.
I SEE YOUR SOFT SPOT.
POP
CRACK
KRT
BA-BOOM

WHERE ARE YOU HIDING, ADAM?
YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO ASK IF YOU KNEW HOW TO USE ALL THAT POWER...
TIME. MIND. STRENGTH. SPACE. YOU WEILD THEM LIKE A CHILD.
WHAT...WHAT HAVE YOU HIDDEN INSIDE THIS BUILDING?
YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH!

WHILE THE MIND IS ORDERED AND LOGICAL, THE SOUL IS ENIGMATIC AND MERCURIAL.
SO WHILE YOUR MIND STONE DEMANDS YOUR CONSCIOUS CONTROL TO INFLUENCE PEOPLE...
...MY SOUL STONE ONLY NEEDS ME TO ALIGN A PERSON TO WHAT I WANT. THEY RETAIN COMMAND OF THEIR BODIES.
AND THE MORE THEY FULFILL THE DESIRE I HAVE GIVEN THEM, THE MORE BLISS THEY EXPERIENCE.
DO YOU FEEL IT, EVE?
YOU'RE ALMOST ONE OF MY PEOPLE, EVE.
AND IT'S NOT JUST PEOPLE I CAN MAKE MINE...
NO, ADAM.
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
NOOooo!

HOW MANY OF THESE IDIOTS ARE THERE?!
NO, MENZIN! HE'S NOT ONE OF WARLOCK'S KNIGHTS!
DO YOU SEE IT NOW?
IT WAS NO EASY FEAT TO CONTAIN IT, AND I MUST KEEP IT WELL FED, OF COURSE.
NO! NO! HOW COULD YOU DO THIS?!
SHWOOM BOOM
YOU'RE AFTER THANOS?
HE MUST PAY FOR HIS HORRENDOUS CRIMES. THESE BUGS. THIS WAR. THE STONES.
THEY ARE ALL HIS FAULT!
WHAT?!
I MUST DESTROY HIM!

WHAM WHAM WHAM
THANK YOU, THANOS!
HE'S USING THE SOUL STONE TO CONTROL THE BEHEMOTH BUG.
WE'VE GOT TO KILL IT.
THANOS? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
GIVE ME THE STONE. IF THAT BUG ESCAPES, IT WILL KILL US ALL!
I KNOW.
I'M COUNTING ON IT.
NICE JOB, GROOT. STAND DOWN.
ENOUGH OF THIS NONSENSE! WHERE IS THANOS?!


BEHOLD.

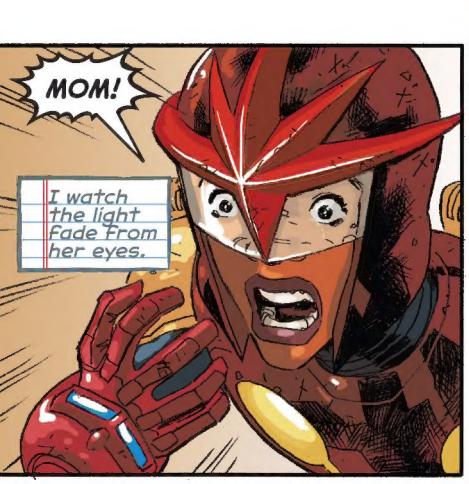
RRUUMMBLE
HA HA HA.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
IT WILL KILL EVERYONE!

NOT EVERYONE. *YOU* ARE MINE. AS ARE THE STONES.

RUN!
THE TOWER IS COMING DOWN!

AT LONG LAST, MY FUTURE IS REWRITTEN.
ONE STONE AWAY FROM ULTIMATE POWER...


MOM!
I watch the light fade from her eyes.

My world ends again.
MURDERER, HAVE YOU SUNK EVEN LOWER?!
YOU'RE TOO LATE ONCE AGAIN, DRAX.

BOOM
BADOOM

THERE WAS A TIME I FEARED YOU MIGHT ACTUALLY CHALLENGE ME, DRAX, BUT DO YOU KNOW WHY I ALLOWED YOU TO PURSUE ME?

I WAS BORED.
URK!

BUT NOW THAT I HAVE MY PRIZE, I WILL FIND NEW AMUSEMENTS.

GOODBYE, DRAX.
SKRAKK
INFINITY IS NEARLY UPON ME.
TO BE CONCLUDED...